

Your Voice

Let me hear from you!

Upcoming Meetings

June 25, 2001

Guest: King County
Exec. Ron Sims
Highline Community
College, Building 2
S. 240th & Pacific Hwy S.
Des Moines
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

July 17, 2001

Guest: King County
Assessor Scott Noble
Federal Way Library
848 S. 320th St.
Federal Way
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

July 31, 2001

Guest: King County
Sheriff Dave Reichert
Federal Way Senior Center
4016 S. 352nd St, Auburn
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

September 2001

Guest: King County
Prosecutor Norm Maleng
Date and Place to be
Determined
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.



Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer is the current Chair of the Metropolitan King County Council.

Bingaman Pond is a Unique Community Resource for South King County

King County acquired Bingaman Pond Park in 1997 through a piece of legislation sponsored by Councilman Pete von Reichbauer and supported by King County Executive Ron Sims. The park covers 26 acres with Bingaman Pond itself covering 15 acres, and is surrounded by marsh wetlands and forested areas. The park is located between South 282nd Street and South 287th Street and 32nd Avenue South and 45th Avenue South.

This small remnant of natural habitat provides homes for species such as great blue herons, bald eagles, red pileated woodpeckers, red-winged blackbirds, king fishers, flickers Virginia Rails, coots, song sparrows, violet-green swallows, bass, cutthroat trout and Mountain Beavers.

Bingaman Pond is a regionally significant resource from both a habitat standpoint and as a surface water retention area. As storm water runoff from the surrounding areas rush down slope, the wetlands provide storage and retention so that sediments have an opportunity to settle out of the water column and the surrounding soils soak up the excess water, and slowly release it into the lower reaches of the watershed. Wetlands scrub and filter surface water as it flows through the aquatic and emergent plants.



Councilmember von Reichbauer (right) discusses the status of Bingaman Pond with Lyle Linblad, President of Friends of Bingaman Pond.

Because sediment has time to settle out, dissolved organic compounds and silt loading is decreased downstream in the Mullen Slough and the Green River, which improves water quality and reduces flooding.

Unfortunately this delicate system is easily degraded when yard waste and other garbage is dumped in the park as the input of foreign materials upsets the fragile nutrient balance of the wetland system, and degrades water quality both in the wetland and down stream.

The forested area, composed mainly of Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, Oregon Ash, quaking aspen and black cottonwood, shades the wetlands and shoreline and provides nesting habitat. Native shrubs include elderberry, salal, salmon berry, huckleberry, crabapple and willow and

Bingaman Pond continued

provide food sources for resident and migratory birds. Wetland plants include water parsley, marsh cinquefoil, skunk cabbage, water purselane, sedges and rushes. Bingaman Pond not only provides essential habitat to plants, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals but is also historically significant. Bingaman Pond supplied cranberries to the military during World War II from the cranberry bog that used to occupy the majority of the pond and wetlands.

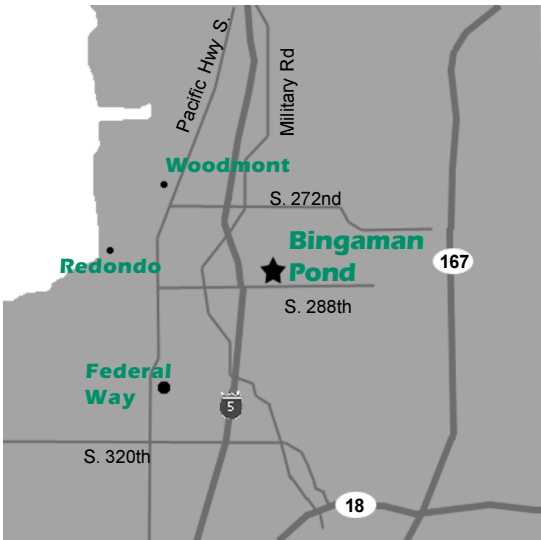
Bingaman Pond, a King County operated park in District Seven is one of our most treasured local wetlands. The diverse wetlands provide educational and recreational opportunities to the surrounding neighborhoods and schools. Friends of Bingaman Pond have been

working hard to improve the educational, recreational and habitat value of the park. Volunteers, Boy Scouts, and neighbors have spent countless hours improving trails, installing benches and handrails as well as enhancing habitat and minimizing the effects of visitor traffic to the park. King County allocated \$5,000 in the 2001 budget to improve trails in the park.

A concept plan will eventually be developed to guide restoration and development of trails within the park, and the funding allocated this year will assist Friends of Bingaman Pond with the preliminary planning process. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information about Bingaman Pond, please call Lyle Linblad, President of Friends of Bingaman Pond at (253) 854-4280.



Councilmember von Reichbauer (right) has made the preservation of Bingaman Pond a priority.



**Councilmember
Pete
von Reichbauer**

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